

Minutes of ESD Safety Committee meeting 11/18/04

Present: Peter Persoff, Tim Kneafsey, Deb Williard, Dominique Joyner, Seiji Nakagawa, Todd Wood, Jil Geller, Mike Ruggieri, Bo Bodvarsson.

Future meetings are scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on last working Thursdays of each month:

- 12/16/04 1:30 PM room 90-1099
- 1/27/05 1:30 PM room 90-1099
- 2/24/05 1:30 PM room 90-1099

1. Any EHS matters requiring immediate attention: An ergonomics issue, self-reported, possibly not work related, will be evaluated. This may be a first-aid incident (i.e., non recordable).

2. Bo approved the policy that all ESD supervisors will take EHS 20. Phyllis Pei (the new EH&S Division Head) is developing a course that will be tailored to the needs of research divisions. Jil will ask her to send Bo an advance copy of the view graphs.

3. Jil Geller, the new Division Safety Coordinator, has sent a level-1 e-mail to the informing the entire Division of our intention to establish a new safety culture.

4. The minutes of the meeting of Oct. 28, 2004 were approved with no revisions.

5. Deb Williard suggested that all labs use a uniform method of labeling chemicals. Examples of stick on labels available from VWR (# 36433-437 and -435 large and small) were shown. Use the NFPA codes and the MSDS to get the hazard information. The particular advantage of these labels is that the personal protective equipment can be selected on the label. Also the chemical owner should be on the label. If a chemical is diluted in the secondary container then the MSDS can be consulted to determine the level of hazard to assign.

6. Draft ESD ISM Plan has been circulated to the committee. Some members said they would give comments to Jil. Bo will present this plan to LBNL management in February at the ISM Board Meeting. The ISM Board is composed of the two Deputy Laboratory Directors, the EH&S Division Director, and the SRC Chairperson.

7. Self-Assessment Criteria (prescribed by LBNL for the Divisions) for 2005 were distributed to the committee. Several of these expectations – for example, that the Division has an effective program for ensuring the safety of students – may be difficult to validate. The signature of a student indicating that s/he has read the lab safety primer could be a useful tool to document that this expectation has been met.

8. Safety Coordinator's Report walkthroughs were distributed to the committee by e-mail as attached Excel files. In the future, the DSC will distribute the checklists to the

responsible PIs and lab managers for them to fill out in advance of the walkthrough. This will serve the purposes of (1) generating objective evidence of safety culture and walkthroughs (2) alert the PI and lab manager what the walk through will look for.

9. Hazard in 70-143 – the floor floods, because of raising water table in the rainy season. Some remediation has been attempted but does not appear to have been successful (not enough rain yet this year to test it). Tim Kneafsey will discuss this with James Mankini, the maintenance machinist in Bldg 70. ESD's proposed solution is to put in a sump in the corner of the room and sump pump, to deliver the water to a sink. Note that the OSHA inspection last spring resulted in a finding that the leak should be fixed, and this is listed with the Lab's institutional fixes (currently not funded).

10. The procedure for receiving environmental samples that are presumed or suspected of contamination was discussed. Our plan is to evaluate all hazards and institute appropriate controls before work is done. Level of contamination should be known before the sample arrives, so work authorizations can be in place.

11. Deb Williard raised the issue of soil permits, which are issued by USDA, and whether these are needed for all geologic samples. Margaret Torn and Tamas Torok currently have soil permits for receipt of soil samples sent to their labs. (Follow up: Dominique Joyner did some research and found that only "soils" as defined by the attached pdf require permits. Geologic samples devoid of surficial organic matter, cores, and rocks are exempt.)